

Offshore Wind Constitutional Amendment FAQs

Ballot Language

"Do you support an amendment to require that federal revenues received by the state generated from Outer Continental Shelf alternative or renewable energy production be deposited into the Coastal Protection and Restoration Fund?"

Frequently Asked Questions

WHAT IS THE "WIND AMENDMENT"?

The Constitutional Amendment provides that *federal* revenues received by Louisiana from Outer Continental Shelf alternative or renewable energy production shall be deposited into the Coastal Trust Fund. It would amend the current state law already dedicating federal oil and gas revenues to the coastal trust fund to also include offshore renewable and alternative energy sources. This state constitutional amendment will be on the ballot on November 5th, 2024.

WHAT THIS CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT DOES NOT DO

- Does not take money from the state General Fund or away from other important state projects and programs.
- Not slow or disincentivize the production of oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico
- Not a subsidy for wind energy production in the Gulf of Mexico
- WILL NOT increase the cost of doing business for energy companies in the Gulf of Mexico

Passing this amendment means that *if and when* alternative energy production occurs in the waters off Louisiana's coast *AND* federal law changes to allow for sharing qualifying revenues from that production, those federal dollars will be dedicated to the Coastal Trust Fund for use on coastal master plan projects that will protect and restore our coast and communities.

HOW WILL THIS BENEFIT LOUISIANA'S COASTAL PROGRAM IF PASSED ON NOVEMBER 5TH?

Only one offshore lease sale has occurred so far in the Gulf of Mexico so it is difficult to predict how the alternative and renewable industries will grow in the future or how large of a financial impact it would

have for the coastal trust fund. But, what is clear is that without a change in federal law and this constitutional amendment, none of that funding will support the protection or restoration of our coast.

While dollar amounts are small today, passage of this amendment would send a clear message that all types of energy produced off our coast depend on a healthy and resilient coast and should contribute to its protection and restoration. It would present a powerful argument to federal lawmakers that Louisiana will invest additional OCS revenues it receives wisely, and it would be a critical first step toward shrinking the coastal program's upcoming funding gap.

WHAT ABOUT RESIDENTS AND COMMUNITIES OUTSIDE THE COASTAL AREA? HOW DO THEY BENEFIT FROM THIS OR WHAT OPTIONS DO THEY HAVE FOR FUTURE FUNDING FOR THEIR NEEDS?

A functional Louisiana coastline not only protects against physical damage for those who live there but protects the economy of the entire state from the impacts of hurricanes and sea level rise. The coastal crisis affects homes and home values, unique and rich cultural traditions, threatens major economic engines and assets like oil and gas refineries, manufacturing complexes, pipelines, and ports, threatens navigation, harms our fisheries, and casts a pall over Louisiana's efforts to attract tourists and business development.

Additionally, during committee hearings on this Constitutional Amendment, the author and other legislators discussed the idea of a similar bill taking shape to capture onshore revenue from wind, solar and other alternative energy sources similar in nature to this bill. The goal there would be to have a fund where that money could go for priorities in north and central Louisiana.